

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR

SUBJECT: NAMSA GENERAL MANAGER/NAMSA CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD

REF: USNATO 6854

1. WE AGREE WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL. IT
A,PEARS THAT ITALY AND FRANCE PRESENTLY INTEND TO
CONTINUE TO PREVENT APPOINTMENT OF THE FRG CANDIDATE
FOR GENERAL MANAGER UNTIL ITALIAN ACCEPTED AS CHAIRMAN.
WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE AN ATTEMPT BY TWO COUNTRIES TO
FORCE ALL OTHER ALLIES TO ACCEPT AN INTERNATIONAL STAFF
POSITION CANDIDATE SUPPORTED BY THE TWO, BY JUST
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REFUSING TO GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY. THIS COULD
ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT LIKELY TO HAUNT US IN THE FUTURE.

2. BUT T;ERE IS NO REASON FOR THE U.S- TO EXPEND
POLITICAL CAPITAL OR OTHERWISE GET FURTHER INVOLVED
WHEN WE ARE JUST ONE OF FOUR NATIONS THAT ;AVE NOMINATED
A CANDIDATE FOR NAMSA CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. FOR ONCE,

IT IS OTHER MAJOR ALLIES THAT ARE MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. IN OUR VIEW IT IS UP TO THEM TO TAKE INITIATIVES TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

3. LOGICALLY, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FRG CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MANAGER BLOCKED BY ITALY AND FRANCE, IT WOULD SEEM THE FRG SHOULD INITIATE THE NEXT STEP TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE. WE HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBLE INITIATIVES, AND IN THIS CONNECTION, IT OCCURS TO US THAT THE FRENCH WILL BE ANXIOUS TO FILL THE SOON TO BE VACANT POSITION OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CEOA. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE RULES FOR APPOINTMENT TO THIS POSITION ARE VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS THOSE APPLICABLE TO NAMSA POSITIONS. WE EXPECT THE FRG WOULD CONSIDER IT QUITE LOGICAL TO LINK THESE PENDING APPOINTMENTS. WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO SUPPORT SUCH A MOVE IF THE FRG INITIATES IT. YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. FYI: WE ARE OF COURSE PREPARED TO RECONSIDER OUR POSITION ON THE NAMSA APPOINTMENTS, AND THOUGHT THAT WE COULD DO THIS AFTER THE JULY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN THE LIGHT OF THE VOTE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. WE ASSUMED THAT A VOTE ON THE CHAIRMAN WOULD CLARIFY THE SITUATION. SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE. CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ARE STILL PREPARED TO RECONSIDER OUR POSITION WHEN THERE HAVE BEEN NEW DEVELOPMENTS INITIATED OR PROPOSED, PREFERABLY BY THE FRG. SUCH RECONSIDERATION COULD INCLUDE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. CANDIDATE FOR NAMSA CHAIRMAN BUT ONLY IF THAT WERE PART OF AN OVERALL SOLUTION THAT PRESERVED THE ALLIANCE'S STANDARDS AND TRADITIONS FOR FILLING FUTURE INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS. END FYI.

CHRISTOPHER

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